

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4, 9, 13, and 20.

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18 to read as follows.

a1
1 (Amended). A candle comprising, in combination, a fuel element comprising a solid fuel, a wick at which said fuel may be burned to produce heat, a heat conductive container for said fuel element whereby said heat may be transported so as to melt said solid fuel, wherein said container is configured so as to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick, and said heat conductive container further comprises a heat conductive element selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said container from a flame upon said wick.

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5 (Amended). The candle of Claim 1, wherein said heat conductive element cooperatively engages said fuel element.

a3
7 (Amended). A melting plate candle comprising, in combination, a meltable solid fuel, a consumable wick, a heat conductive base upon which said fuel rests, and a heat conductive element, selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said base from a flame upon said wick, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, wherein said heat conductive base is configured so as to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel to said wick for combustion, and said base and said element are configured so as to cooperatively engage said fuel.

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10 (Amended). The candle of Claim 8, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

Alf 11 (Amended). The candle of Claim 8, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

12 (Amended). A melting plate candle comprising a replaceable fuel element and wick, a fuel holder comprising a heat conductive melting plate, and at least one heat conductive element to collect heat from a flame at said wick and conduct said heat to said melting plate to thereby melt said fuel and form a pool of liquid fuel on the surface of said melting plate, wherein said fuel holder is configured to position and engage said fuel on said melting plate for rapid melting, said heat conductive elements are selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, and said melting plate is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow to said wick, and the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 180° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 160° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick.

q5 14 (Amended). The candle of Claim 12, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

15 (Amended). The candle of Claim 12, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

16 (Amended). A solid replacement element for a melting plate candle fuel holder, said element comprising a consumable wick and a solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and candle waxes, configured to cooperatively engage said fuel holder, and having a starter bump on the top surface thereof positioned so as to engage said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

18 (Amended). A melting plate fuel holder comprising a heat conductive container for a fuel element comprising a combustible wick, said container configured so as to engage and melt said solid fuel element and to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick, said heat conductive container further comprising conductive elements selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said container from a flame upon said wick.